

CHESS

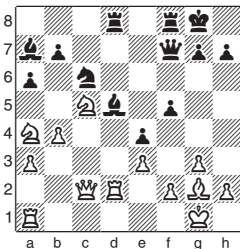
A decisive day

By Malcolm Pein

A wonderful opening day at the 4th London Chess Classic saw four decisive games and Magnus Carlsen equal Garry Kasparov's all-time high rating of 2851 thanks to a victory over Luke McShane. The proceedings were opened by your correspondent in my capacity as chief executive of the charity Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC). CSC delivers chess lessons and equipment to 175 primary schools in England and Wales, mainly in the inner cities, and stages the London Chess Classic.

L. Aronian - H. Nakamura

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.g3 e5 6.Nb5 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 a6 8.N5c3 (8.Bxb4 axb5 9.Bd6 Qa5+ 10.Nd2 Ne4 removes the dangerous bishop on d6 and Black is doing quite well) 8...d5 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Bg2 Be6 11.0-0 Nb6 12.Be3 Nc4 13.Qc1 0-0 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.a3 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Ba5 17.Nd2 Bb6 18.Qf3 Rad8 (18..Nd4 19.Qxb7) 19.Na4 Ba7 20.Qc3 Rd4 21.Qc2 f5! (Controlling e4 and preparing to block in the Bg2) 22.e3 Rdd8 23.b4 e4 24.Nb3 Qf7 25.Nbc5 Bd5 26.Rd2?

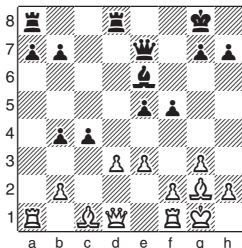


Black to play and win material

Judit Polgar's position was already uncomfortable after 7.Nd5; Kramnik had all the options, a3 Rb1 and b4, d2-d4, or b3, Bb2 and f2-f4. Polgar's piece sacrifice was ingenious but insufficient:

V. Kramnik - J. Polgar

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 d6 5.e3 e5 6.Nge2 Be6 7.Nd5! Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nec3 Nb4 10.Nxe7+ Qxe7 11.d3 d5!? (11...Qd7 12.a3 Nc6 13.Nd5; 11...Rad8 12.a3 Nc6 13.Nd5) 12.a3 dxc4 13.axb4 cxb4 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 f5 16.Bg2 Rfd8



17.d4! a5 18.Qe2 e4 19.f3! Bd5 (19...exf3 20.Bxf3 Qd7) 20.fxe4 fxe4 21.Rf5 Qd7 22.Re5 Re8 23.Bh3 Qc6 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Bd2 Qe7 26.Qh5 Qd8 27.Rf1 g6 28.Qe5 Ra6 29.Bd7 Bf7 30.Rxf7 Kxf7 31.Bb5 Rf6 32.Bxc4+ Kg7 33.Qxe4 Qc7 34.Qd5 Rf8 35.e4 b5 36.Qxb5 Qd6 37.Qb7+ Kh8 38.Qa7 g5 39.Bxg5 Qc6 40.Qe7 1-0

Answer:

Ng4 0-1
30.Rxd5 Qxd5 31.Nb2 Qd2 32.Qc7
and all his minor pieces are bad)
Rf8 (White is the exchange down
Rxd2) 27...Rxd5 28.Nxa6 Ne5 29.Rd1
26...b6! 27.Rxd5 (27.Nxa6 Bb3 28.Qxc6